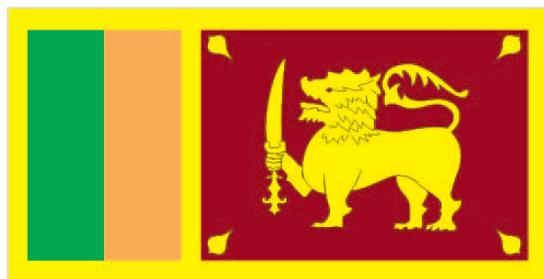




# SRI LANKA



## INTRODUCTION

The first Sinhalese arrived in Sri Lanka late in the 6th century B.C., probably from northern India. The island was ceded to the British in 1796, became a crown colony in 1802, and was formally united under British rule by 1815. As Ceylon, it became independent in 1948; its name was changed to Sri Lanka in 1972.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Gotabaya RAJAPAKSA

### Head of Government

President Gotabaya RAJAPAKSA

### Government Type

presidential republic

### Capital

Colombo

### Legislature

unicameral Parliament (225 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 65,610 sq km

Land: 64,630 sq km

Water: 980 sq km

### Climate

tropical monsoon; northeast monsoon (December to March); southwest monsoon (June to October)

### Natural Resources

limestone, graphite, mineral sands, gems, phosphates, clay, hydropower, arable land

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

lower middle-income South Asian island economy; extremely high, domestically-sourced public debts due to COVID-19; central bank pursued quantitative easing; improved trade; significant remittances; known garment and commodities exporter

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$2.748 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$12,500 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - processing of rubber, tea, coconuts, tobacco and other agricultural commodities, telecommunications, insurance, banking, tourism, shipping, clothing, textiles, cement, petroleum refining, information technology services, construction

**Agricultural products** - rice, coconuts, sugarcane, plantains, milk, tea, cassava, maize, poultry, coir

**Exports** \$16.32 billion (2019 est.)

clothing, apparel, tea, used tires, rubber products, precious stones, cinnamon (2019)

**partners:** US 24%, India 8%, UK 7%, Germany 7% (2019)

**Imports** \$24.98 billion (2019 est.)

refined petroleum, textiles, gold, cars, broadcasting equipment (2019)

**partners:** India 24%, China 23%, Singapore 7%, UAE 6%, Malaysia 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

23.0 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

0.63% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Sinhalese 74.9%, Sri Lankan Tamil 11.2%, Sri Lankan Moors 9.2%, Indian Tamil 4.2%, other 0.5% (2012 est.)

### Language

Sinhala (official and national language) 87%, Tamil (official and national language) 28.5%, English 23.8% (2012) est.)

### Religion

Buddhist (official) 70.2%, Hindu 12.6%, Muslim 9.7%, Roman Catholic 6.1%, other Christian 1.3%, other 0.05% (2012 est.)

